(b) Road accident can be attributed to a number of factors which, *inter-alia*, are increasing number of vehicles, inadequate training of drivers, lack of knowledge about traffic rules amongst the drivers, disobedience of traffic rules by the drivers, non-use of zebra crossing, foot over bridges and subways by the pedestrians and the presence of beggars and vendors. However, as per the available information, the number of fatal accidents for the period January to July, 2005 has reduced by 70 compared to corresponding period last year.

(c) In addition to the regular apprehending of beggars and vendors by the Delhi Police, the Government of NCT of Delhi has constituted an anti-begging squad consisting of officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Delhi Police for apprehension of beggars and their detention at certified institutions. A special court with one Metropolitan Magistrate has also been established. At present, there are 11 certified custodial/residential institutions for beggars in Delhi. Facilities like shelter, boarding, lodging, medical care, vocational training, counselling, etc are provided at these institutions to wean them away from the practice of begging. Delhi Government has also constituted a State Advisory Committee, which is looking into the need for amendment of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 which was extended to Delhi in March, 1961 and carrying out surveys to determine the background of people indulging in this practice in order to take up effective measures to curb the incidence of begging and vending.

Compulsory Education Bill

*107. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has considered/is considering a Compulsory Education Bill;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce common school system as per the National Education Policy, 1986, in the Compulsory Education Bill;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the decision taken, if any;

(d) whether there is any proposal before CABE that would result in abdication of State's constitutional obligation to provide adequate financial resources for elementary eduation;

(e) if so, the action taken thereon;

(f) whether there is any delay in finalizing Compulsory Education Bill; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (g) The Report of a Committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) which was constituted to, *inter alia,* suggest a draft of a Bill for Free and Compulsory Education of Children of 6-14 years' age group, was discussed in a meeting of the Board held on 14-15 July, 2005. The Report contained the Committee's recommendations regarding "essential provisions" of the proposed Bill on the above subject. The recommended "essential provisions" contain, *inter alia,* certain features of the Common School System also.

CABE is an advisory body and does not take "decisions". The above Report presented to CABE contains the recommended "essential provisions" of a Bill which has to be enacted as a Constitutional obligation. The question of it implying any abdication of state's Constitutional obligation does not arise.

Further action is being taken in the light of recommendations of the above CABE Committee which have been received only in the beginning of July, 2005. The question of any delay in finalization of the Bill, therefore, does not armise.

Affairs of institutions for disabled

108. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that three apex institutions for the disabled are practically headless;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had abolished the National Disability Commission; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?